

Dkt. 2271/66770

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Hideyuki YAMAGUCHI

Serial No.: 10/075,481

Group Art Unit: 1733

Date Filed: February 13, 2002

Examiner: Samchuan Cua Yao

For: HEAT-SENSITIVE STENCIL SHEET AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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April 7, 2004
Date

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO MARCH 12, 2004 OFFICE ACTION

This Communication is submitted in response to the March 12, 2004 Office Action issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified patent application.

The March 12, 2004 Office Action indicates that examination of the application will be restricted by the Patent Office under 35 U.S.C. §121 to one of the following purportedly distinct inventions:

- Group I. Claims 1-8, drawn to a heat-sensitive stencil sheet, classified in class 428, subclass 311.31;
- Group II. Claim 9, drawn to a method of making a heat-sensitive stencil sheet, classified in class 156, subclass 307.7; and
- Group III. Claim 10, drawn to a thermal stencil printing apparatus, classified in class 101, subclass 128.4.

Applicant hereby elects to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-8.

The March 12, 2004 Office Action states that the application contains claims directed to the following purportedly distinct species:

Species A: including radiation curable adhesive; and

Species B: including moisture curable adhesive.

The March 12, 2004 Office Action also states that Applicant must elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits, even though claim 1 is generic. In addition, the Office Action states that Applicant must provide a listing of claims readable on the elected species.


Applicant hereby elects to prosecute Species A, which includes, in addition to generic claim 1, claims 3-8.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this response and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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